

REMARKS

New claims 6-7 have been added. Claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration.

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, at pages 2-4, claims 1-2 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,715).

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1, for example, recites:

the auto-document feeder mechanism is supported via a movable coupling mechanism so that the relative position and relative orientation of the auto-document feeder mechanism in relation to the flatbed mechanism can be changed.

As such, a movable coupling mechanism of the claimed scanner apparatus allows the position and the orientation of the auto-document feeder mechanism to be changed relative to the flatbed mechanism. Wang, as relied on by the Examiner, provides no such movable coupling mechanism and, as a result, Wang does not disclose that the auto-document feeder mechanism can be moved relative to the flatbed mechanism. In the embodiment of Figs. 4-6, Wang merely discloses that the main body 3 is connected to the base 4 with the use of a plurality of posts 33 on the main body 3 and plug-in holes 43 in the base 4. However, while the main body 3 can be connected to the base 4, Wang does not provide a movable coupling mechanism that allows the main body 3 to move relative to the base 4. Wang merely discloses the use of a single set of posts 33 and a single set of corresponding plug-in holes 43, such that the main body 3 can be attached to the base 4 in only a single orientation. Furthermore, in the embodiments of Figs. 7-10, Wang merely discloses that the main body 3 can be connected to the flatbed scanner 5 with the use of a plurality of posts 33 on the main body 3 and plug-in holes 53 in the flatbed scanner. Again, while the main body 3 can be connected to the flatbed scanner 54, Wang does not provide a movable coupling mechanism that allows the main body 3 to move relative to the flatbed scanner 5. Wang merely discloses the use of a single set of posts 33 and a single set of corresponding plug-in holes 53, such that the main body 3 can be attached to the flatbed scanner 5 in only a single orientation.

Since Wang does not discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Wang. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 5 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. Therefore, claims 2 and 5 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 4-5, claims 3-4 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Koshimizu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,522,862).

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Koshimizu et al. fails to make up for the deficiencies in Wang discussed above with respect to claim 1, so that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the combination of Wang and Koshimizu et al.

Claims 3-4 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 3-4 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

III. New Claims

New claims 6-7 have been added. Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and further recites:

wherein the auto-document feeder mechanism operates at a relative position selected from a plurality of positions with an orientation selected from opposite orientations on the flatbed mechanism, the auto-document feeder mechanism being configured to operate at each of the plurality of positions in each of the opposite orientations.

As discussed above, Wang does not disclose that main body 3 can operate at a relative position selected from a plurality of positions on the flatbed scanner 5. Moreover, Wang does not disclose that the main body 3 can operate from opposite orientations on the flatbed scanner 5. Koshimizu et al. fails to make up for the deficiencies in Wang with respect to claim 6. Thus, it is submitted that claim 6 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art and, therefore, is in a condition suitable for allowance.

New claim 7 recites:

a flatbed document-reading mechanism;
an auto-document feeder mechanism; and

a movable coupling mechanism supporting the auto-document feeder mechanism so that the auto-document feeder mechanism is configured to move with respect to a surface of the flatbed document-reading mechanism and rotate with respect to the flatbed document-reading mechanism.

As discussed above, these features of claim 7 are not taught by the cited prior art. Thus, it is submitted that claim 7 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art and, therefore, is in a condition suitable for allowance.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

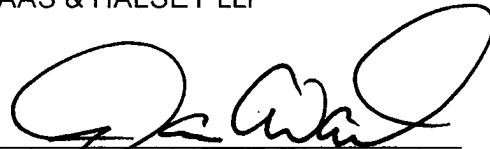
Respectfully submitted,

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